

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10

DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 (ISO) W

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P R 151505Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5136

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 00647

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, OCON, SHUM, EEC

SUBJECT: UNESCO MEETING OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS TO DRAFT A DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE, PARIS, JANUARY 26-30

REF: STATE 004128

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED EC AND UNESCO ASPECTS OF ZIONISM/RACIYV ISSUE JAN. 14 WITH MFA'S UN AFFAIRS OFFICE DIRECTOR PISANI, SHORTLY PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF NOTICE THAT SUBJECT MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

2. PISANI SAID FLATLY THAT EC UN EXPERTS WERE UNINFORMED AS TO US POSITION WHEN THEY MET IN LUXEMBOURG ON JANUARY 8.

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3. PISANI SAID THAT ESSENCE OF EXPERTS RECOMMENDATION TO

POLITICAL DIRECTORS WAS SIMPLE. A DEMARCHE WOULD BE MADE TO M'BOW REPORTING THAT THE NINE ARE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUBJECT MEETING, PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT IN GENERAL DEBATE AND IN DRAFTING GROUPS ALL DECISIONS ARE TO BE TAKEN BY CONSENSUS. FAILING SATISFACTORY DEGREE OF ASSURANCE FROM M'BOW THAT HE COULD HOLD THE MEETING TO THAT FORMULA, THE EC (PRESUMABLY THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AGAIN) WOULD HAVE TO GRAPPLE WITH THE PROBLEM ANEW. BOTH PISANI AND EMBOFF NOTED THAT DEFINITION OF A "SATISFACTORY DEGREE OF ASSURANCE" IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO A WIDE AREA OF INTERPRETATION.

4. PISANI SAID THE INTENTION OF THE NINE IS TO ASSURE THAT THE ZIONISM/RACISM LINK IS NOT REPEATED IN THE UNESCO CONTEXT, AND THAT THEIR INTENTION IS TO STAND AND FIGHT TO THAT END. HE REFUSED TO PREDICT, HOWEVER, THAT POLITICAL DIRECTORS WOULD OPT FOR A BOYCOTT IF IT BECOMES EVIDENT THAT M'BOW CANNOT GIVE REASONABLE ASSURANCES OF DECISION BY CONSENSUS.

5. PISANI PROFESSED HIMSELF UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE USG WOULD INSIST ON BOYCOTTING THE MEETING IF THE CONSENSUS RULE CAN BE MADE TO HOLD. HE OPINED, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THAT IF USG STICKS TO ITS "FORMALISTIC" APPROACH, ITS WEIGHT WILL BE MISSED IN ON-GOING EFFORTS IN THE DECADE AGAINST RACISM TO BLOCK RECURRENCES OF THE ZIONISM/RACISM FORMULA. VOLPE

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